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grandeur and sublimity, *Israel in Egypt* had not enjoyed its due share of popularity, and was but rarely produced even in Handel's lifetime. But at the Crystal Palace the effect produced on the vast multitude assembled was unparalleled, and it will henceforth hold its proper place by the side of the *Messiah*, its worthiest companion. The great experiment having been tried, it is now seen that there was no ground for the fears of those who doubted the possibility of securing comfort to so many visitors; and who feared that the sound would be so overpowering that the listeners would not be able to bear it. But some competent judges think that the interval between this time and the year 1859 should be taken advantage of for the purpose of producing the concentration of sound within special limits, and its more equal diffusion amongst the various localities in which the audience are established. Whatever could be done under the circumstances was done by the zeal and perseverance of the directors, but between this and 1859 there is plenty of time to devise and complete such improvements as are indispensable to unqualified success. The committee of the Sacred Harmonic Society, we are informed, have already in contemplation a plan to keep the enormous body of amateurs, provincial and metropolitan, who officiated as chorus, at regular and constant practice in the interval. The other duties will devolve chiefly upon the directors of the Crystal Palace, who have already shown that many thousands of persons can be accommodated with ease and comfort. On this head doubts and fears are wholly set at rest, and the exclusive question now becomes one of providing means by which the musical effect shall be more generally distributed. The year 1859 is not only interesting as the centenary of Handel's death, but as the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Haydn, and the fiftieth anniversary of the birth of Mendelssohn.

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY, EXETER HALL.

THE following circular has been issued by the Committee:—

There being good reason for believing that an opinion prevails among the large body of efficient Choralists who formed the London division of the Choir at the Great Handel Festival, that a few meetings in the year, somewhat similar in character to the great Choral Rehearsals then held at Exeter Hall, would afford considerable individual gratification, and, while tending to produce improved choral effects, would preserve intact a body of vocalists who would be of the highest value in the great celebration of 1859, it is with much satisfaction the Committee are enabled to state, that steps have been taken for carrying the desired object into effect.

Arrangements have therefore been made for a series of *Choral Rehearsals* for voices only, on an extended scale (comprising from 1200 to 1500 Vocalists), to be held in the LARGE HALL, EXETER HALL, on the THIRD FRIDAY in each month, from November until April inclusive.

It is not intended to confine the music to be rehearsed on these occasions to the Sacred Works usually performed by the Society, but to afford variety by the selection of Church and other Part-Music.

The Committee have the pleasure to announce that Mr. Costa has kindly undertaken to afford the aid of his invaluable experience, by conducting these Meetings.

The only Visitors who can be permitted to attend to witness the Meetings will be the Subscribers to the Sacred Harmonic Society.

As the main object of these Rehearsals is to attain a high degree of combined choral perfection, it is no less a point of importance that those engaging in them should, by previous private study and practice, make themselves well acquainted with the music to be rehearsed; so that, a general clear and distinct syllabic and tonal effect being thus previously attained, undivided attention may be given to the instructions of the Conductor.

With this object, the Committee have entered into

arrangements with Mr. Novello, of 69, Dean Street, Soho, that, on production of the card of admission, the music of the selections, printed for the Society's use, may be had one clear week before the time of meeting, at the small charge of threepence per sheet of four pages.

THOMAS BREWER, Hon. Sec.
6, Exeter Hall, 20th October, 1857.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

This Journal is published on the 1st of every month.

The late hour at which Advertisements reach us, interferes much with their proper classification.

All communications must be authenticated by the proper name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication.

Colored Envelopes are sent to all Subscribers whose payment in advance is exhausted. The paper will be discontinued where the Subscriber neglects to renew. We again remind those who are disappointed in getting back numbers, that only the music pages are stereotyped, and of the rest of the paper, only sufficient are printed to supply the current sale.

We would request those who send us country newspapers, wishing us to read particular paragraphs, to mark the passage, by cutting a slit in the paper near it.

We cannot undertake to return offered contributions; the authors, therefore, will do well to retain copies.

Brief Chronicle of the last Month.

ADELAIDE.—The North Adelaide Choral Society's concert of sacred music was given on the 31st of July, at White's Assembly Rooms. His Excellency and Lady Macdonnell were present, and there was a large and respectable audience. Several of the standard anthems were ably performed, and various solo pieces, including "The Infant's Prayer," by V. Novello, which was effectively sung by Miss Petman.

BARNARD CASTLE.—The Sacred Harmonic Society gave the first monthly rehearsal to their honorary members on Friday, October 30th. The programme comprised a selection of choruses from the *Messiah*. The quality of the voices is good, and of great power. Mr. Raper accompanied the choruses on a fine-toned harmonium. Mr. Brandon conducted with much ability.

BIRMINGHAM.—The Festival Choral Society gave their first concert this season in the Town Hall, on Thursday, September 24th. The oratorio was Haydn's *Creation*. The proceeds of the performance are destined for the hospitals and other charitable institutions. The principal singers were Mrs. Sunderland, Mr. Perring, of Manchester, and Mr. Lambert, of York. The band and chorus consisted of 250 performers, under the direction of Mr. Stockley. Mr. Stimpson presided at the organ.

BELFAST.—The Belfast Classical Harmonist Society held their first concert of the season on Monday evening, the 12th ult. Madame Rudersdorff, Madame Amadei, Mr. Charles Braham, and Mr. Thomas, were the solo singers; Herr Molique, violin; Herr Randegger, pianist; and Mr. Harper, of Hillsborough, horn and trumpet. Mr. Allen was the conductor. The society deserve great praise for producing upon this occasion Handel's *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*. No fault could be found with the manner in which the performance was rendered, but the work was received with coldness, and it was evident that the audience would have preferred some less weighty and more popular music, with which they might have had a previous acquaintance. The second part of the concert embraced a miscellaneous selection, including two pieces composed by the conductor.

BOLTON.—A new organ was opened at the Wesleyan Chapel in this town, on the 2nd of October. A selection of music was performed by Mr. J. Aspin; in the course

of which, he introduced an *Andante* of much merit, composed by himself. The organ was built by Mr. Holt, of Leeds, and is an excellent and powerful instrument. It is blown by the new patented water power, and combines most of the modern improvements.

BRIDGNORTH.—A grand concert was given at the New Assembly Room, Bridgnorth, on Tuesday evening, Oct. 6th, and was well attended. Principal vocalists: Miss Joesbury, Mr. Bickley, Mr. Mathison, Mrs. Dabbs, Mr. Dabbs, and Mr. Brooks, of the Music and Town Hall Concerts, Birmingham. Pianoforte, Mr. W. Roberts.

DURHAM.—A musical festival took place in this city on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 29th and 30th of September, and was attended with complete success. The music was performed in the spacious building belonging to the Markets Company. The *Messiah* was given on Tuesday; when the principal vocalists were Miss Witham, Miss Crossland, Mr. Ashton, Mr. Brandon, Mr. Lambert, Mr. Bates, Mr. Martin, and Mr. Hemmingway. In consequence of the sudden death of Dr. Ions, the duty of conducting the oratorio was undertaken by Mr. Penman. Mr. Redshaw officiated as organist, and Mr. Ainsworth led the band. The chorus-singers numbered 120; 96 of whom were connected with the Sacred Harmonic Society of Newcastle, and the remainder were from Leeds, Huddersfield, and York. The solos were very creditably performed, and the choruses were well sustained, and displayed much accuracy. *Elijah* was the oratorio selected for the evening's entertainment,—when the attendance was very large. On Wednesday morning, the chief attraction was the band of the York Rifles, who performed several pleasing pieces with much taste and precision. There was also a selection of secular music. A performance took place in the evening, which brought the festival to a very satisfactory conclusion.

GOOLE.—On the 5th of October, a most successful concert, in connection with the Mechanics' Institute, was given at the Scientific Hall, by Miss Maria Wilson, of Hull, and Messrs. Plowman, Hird, Hudson, Holmes, and Turner, from the Wilberforce Institution for the Blind, York.

HULL.—Miss Cudworth's annual concert came off on Tuesday evening, the 6th ult., in the Music Hall. The artists engaged were Mdme. Rudersdorff, Mdme. Amadei, Messrs. Charles Braham and Thomas, Herr Molique, Signor Randegger, and Miss Cudworth herself. The programme comprised, in the first part, Rossini's *Stabat Mater*; and in the second, a miscellaneous selection. The choruses in the *Stabat Mater* were sung only as quartetts, and although this was a loss so far as body of sound was concerned, it was a gain in the great precision and perfect intonation which resulted from it. The solos were well sung. There was a large audience present, who were fully satisfied with the performances.

IMPROVEMENT IN THE PIANOFORTE.—An important improvement has lately been patented by Messrs. Shaw and Son, of Glossop, Derbyshire. The object of this improvement is to render the pianoforte capable of producing the true diatonic scale in any key, and thereby to correspond in intonation with the human voice, or with stringed instruments. It appears that, by a simple mechanism, acted upon by the foot or knee (the latter when applied to a harmonium, to which this improvement is equally applicable), the whole of the black or half-tone keys are made to produce all flats or all sharps, rendering the instrument enharmonic to the same degree as the double-action harp, hitherto the most perfect instrument with fixed tones. The improvement effected is very decided, and is apparent even to a partially-cultivated ear.—*Manchester Examiner*.

LUTTERWORTH.—On Tuesday evening, the 20th ult., in the Town Hall, Lutterworth, Mr. C. Oldershaw delivered to the members and friends of the Mechanics' Institute of that place, a lecture upon the *Messiah* of Handel; and, by way of illustration, performed the difficult task of singing

the whole of the songs in the oratorio, including the portions usually omitted. The lecture and music were alike favorably received.

LOUTH.—Mr. Willey's annual evening concert took place on Wednesday, October the 22nd, when the "Vocal Union," Miss Dolby, Miss Amy Dolby, and M. Sainton, were engaged. Amongst the glees and madrigals chosen for the occasion, Horsley's charming production, "By Celia's Arbour" was the best executed. The catch "Would you know my Celia's charms?" was cleverly managed, and gratified the audience much. Miss Dolby was in excellent voice, and sang well. The superb playing of M. Sainton on the violin was the theme of general admiration. The rest of the programme, with one or two exceptions, was well rendered, and satisfied the public that Mr. Willey's choice of artists displayed much judgment, and evinced a desire to gratify his numerous patrons.

MANCHESTER.—Another immense audience completely filled the large room of the Free Trade Hall on the 12th ult., this being one of the Monday Evening Concerts. Miss Armstrong, Mr. Champion, and Mr. Delavanti, were among the principal singers. Mr. Richardson performed a solo on the cornet; and the choir were again in great force.

NASEBY.—On Tuesday, Sept. 29th, a concert, consisting of sacred music, was given in the National School-room, by amateur performers of Naseby, Welford, West Haddon, &c. The programme contained a selection of pieces, amounting to fourteen in number, from the compositions of Handel, Jarman, Page, and others—altogether a choice variety of part-harmony. The solos, duets, &c., were performed in a highly creditable manner, and elicited great applause. The choruses also were efficiently sustained,—some of which produced a hearty encore.

NEW MUSIC.—Ferdinand Glover's Cantata, "The Fire-worshippers," words taken from Moore's Poem, *Lalla Rookh*, was performed for the first time on the Inauguration of the Moore Statue, Dublin, the 14th of October.

OSWESTRY.—The fourth concert of the Oswestry Choral Society was held on Friday, the 2nd ult., in the Powis Hall. Miss Williams and Mr. Pierce, of the Liverpool Philharmonic, were engaged as solo singers. The choruses and instrumental accompaniments were managed by amateurs, led by Mr. Eyeley, and under the conductorship of Mr. J. Whitridge Davies, who has been indefatigable since the commencement of the society, of which he was the originator, in training the members. The meeting passed off well, and the selections from Handel and Haydn were performed in a manner that would have done credit to musical societies of far greater pretensions.

PRIZE COMPOSITION.—The prize of ten guineas offered by the publication called the *Corner Cupboard*, has lately been awarded to Mr. George B. Allen, Mus. Bac., Oxon, of Belfast, for the best "Irish Ballad." The judges were Messrs. Lucas and Phillips, of the Royal Academy of Music.

RADCLIFFE (Lancashire), The Chapel-field Choral Class gave their first public concert on Tuesday, the 13th ult., in the Mechanics' Institute, to a crowded audience; the principal parts were sustained by Miss A. Peers, Mr. J. Peers, and Mr. J. Chambers. Master J. Heys presided at the pianoforte, and Mr. Joseph Booth was conductor.

SETTLE CHORAL SOCIETY.—The second concert of the season was given by this society, at the Music Hall, on Wednesday, the 14th ult., with Miss Banks, Mrs. Lockey, Mr. Lockey, and Mr. H. Buckland, as vocalists, and Mr. H. Blagrove (violin), Mr. R. Blagrove (concertina and viola), and Mr. Aylward (violoncello), as solo instrumentalists. The programme, which included a selection from one of Beethoven's grand trios, was very good, and admirably executed throughout.

SILSDEN (Yorkshire).—A concert of miscellaneous music was given in the Odd Fellows' Hall, Mill Bank, on the 22nd Sept. The vocalists were Miss Newell, Mrs.

Gill, Mr. Hargreave, and Mr. Webster. Mr. Midgley presided at the pianoforte. The programme presented a choice selection, chiefly from operas, which was most warmly applauded by an overflowing audience.

THE VOCAL ASSOCIATION held its first meeting for rehearsal on Tuesday evening last, at the Music Hall, Store Street. The large number of members present evinced an interest in the success of the society, which augurs well for its prosperity. Mr. Benedict conducted. The committee proposed a code of rules, of a very stringent character, respecting the future admission of members to the society, which received the unanimous support of the members present.

WELLESBOURNE.—On the 30th of September a selection of sacred and secular music was performed by the Parish Choir, assisted by Messrs. G. Bigwood and R. Maries. The concert gave perfect satisfaction to a crowded audience. Mr. E. Moody conducted, and Mr. H. Maries presided at the pianoforte.

DEATH OF MR. SINCLAIR, THE VOCALIST.—This gentleman, well-known to the musical world forty years ago, as a vocalist of high repute on the stage, died on Tuesday week, at Margate, where he had settled down for some years, as the director of the Tivoli Gardens, a favorite place of amusement during the summer season. Mr. Sinclair was born in Edinburgh, in the year 1790; and being gifted with a voice of remarkable sweetness and flexibility, though of no great compass, entered the musical profession at an early age. For some time Mr. Sinclair was only known as a concert-singer; but in 1811 he made his first appearance on the stage at Covent Garden, in the character of Don Carlos, in the *Duenna*, and at once established himself as a favorite with the public. He afterwards performed the lovers, in other operas. By the advice of his friends, Mr. Sinclair went to Italy, to improve himself in his musical studies, from whence he returned in 1824, after an absence of six years, and was again received at Covent Garden with unbounded enthusiasm. Since that period he maintained his reputation, with little diminution, till advancing years gave him warning that it was time to quit the stage, after a long and honorable career. Mr. Sinclair was the father of Mrs. Catherine Sinclair, the comedienne now performing at the Haymarket Theatre.—*Sunday Times*.

SUDDEN DEATH OF DR. IONS.—An inquest has been held upon the body of the late Dr. Ions, whose death was announced in the *Musical Times* for last month. From the evidence, it appeared that the deceased gentleman, on the morning of his death, had gone into a chemist's shop, complaining of fatigue and spasms of the stomach. After taking some essence of ginger and mint water, he felt relieved, and went off in a cab to Gateshead Fell. He afterwards proceeded to the house of Mr. Sowerby, to whose family he was giving lessons in music. Here he complained of a pressure upon the chest, caused by indigestion; but he remained above an hour, and sung himself during the lesson. Upon returning home, he walked about 20 yards to the cab, and got in without difficulty. At the High Level Bridge, the tollman looked into the cab, and, thinking the gentleman was asleep, asked the driver for the fare; and it was not until reaching home that the deceased was found to be insensible. He expired soon after being taken from the cab. A *post mortem* examination of the body was not deemed necessary; but the cause of death was supposed to be disease of the heart. Dr. Ions was 40 years of age. The jury returned a verdict of "Death from natural causes."

DEATH OF MR. PYNE.—This gentleman, for thirty years one of our most popular native tenor singers, expired a short time since at his residence in Regent Square, in the seventy-fourth year of his age. In 1805, he made his first appearance on the stage, at the Circus (now the Surrey Theatre). In 1809, he was engaged at Drury Lane, where he proved himself to be a vocalist of decided talent, and was at all times a great favorite with the public. He

retired from the stage in 1835. In 1811, Mr. Pyne was appointed choir-master to the Foundling Hospital, a situation that he held until his death, the governors continuing his salary after years and declining health had relaxed his attendance. As a mark of respect to his memory and long services, the chapel was on the following Sunday hung with mourning (the children wearing black scarfs), and an anthem selected for the occasion. Two of Mr. Pyne's family are members of the profession. James, his eldest son, has been for some years organist of the Abbey Church of Bath, and Louisa (Mrs. Willmore), his only daughter, holds the situation of organist at St. John's (district) Church of St. Pancras. Miss Louisa Pyne, the popular vocalist, is the niece—and not, as is commonly supposed, the daughter—of the subject of these remarks.—*Musical Gazette*.

SECOND EDITION.—Price 1s.

NOVELLO'S SCHOOL ROUND-BOOK; a collection of Fifty Rounds and Catches, arranged according to their relative difficulty. Edited by the Rev. J. POWELL METCALFE. Also, a second set of Fifty Rounds, price 1s.; or the two sets bound in cloth, 2s. 6d.

No one, who, in instructing children in music, has employed both rounds and harmonized airs, can doubt which style is more easily taught; and even where there is no experience to guide, reason alone can determine the matter.

J. Alfred Novello, London and New York.

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY, EXETER HALL.—Conductor, Mr. COSTA.—Twenty-sixth Season, 1857-8.

The Committee have the pleasure to announce that the weekly Rehearsals in THE LARGE HALL will be resumed on FRIDAY NEXT, the 23rd October; and that the Concert Season will commence with a performance of Haydn's Third Service, Mendelssohn's Cantata, "Praise Jehovah" (Lauda Sion), and Spohr's Oratorio, "The Last Judgment," on FRIDAY, the 27th November.

A desire having been expressed by Subscribers to be informed of the dates upon which Subscription Concerts will take place, the following are suggested as being likely to be those fixed upon:—

Friday, 27 November.	Friday, 5 March.
" 11 December.	" 26 "
" 8 January.	Wednesday, 31 "
" 29 "	Friday, 9 April.
" 12 February.	" 23 "

The interest taken by the Subscribers and Members of the Society in the Choral Rehearsals which were held for the GREAT HANDEL FESTIVAL, has induced the Committee to make arrangements for a series of similar meetings, which will take place on the third Friday in each month, from November till April, inclusive. These meetings will comprise about 1,200 Choralists. The Music to be rehearsed on these occasions will not be confined to the Sacred Works usually performed by the Society, but will be varied by the selection of Church and other Part-Music, which, it is expected, will prove highly interesting to the Subscribers, and thus add materially to their gratification in the coming season. As, in connection with the arrangements for these celebrations, a limit must be placed on the number of Subscribers, the Committee request the favour of as early an intimation as possible from persons desirous of subscribing for the ensuing Season.

The Terms of Subscription are—

	£	s.	d.
For Central Reserved Seats (numbered)	3	3	0
For Area Reserved Seats (not numbered)	2	2	0
For Gallery Seats (each row numbered)	2	2	0
For Body of the Hall	...	1	1

Subscribers' privileges include the right of attending the Friday Evening Rehearsals in the Large Hall.

Subscriptions will be received at the Society's Office, No. 6, in Exeter Hall, daily, from 10 till 4; or on Friday Evenings, from 7 till 10 o'clock.

6, Exeter Hall, October 20, 1857.